Excellencies, Mr. President of the Piraeus Bar Association, Mrs. President of the Organizing Committee, Mr. President of the Hellenic Maritime Law Association, Mrs. Antapassis, Elisabeth, Anastasia, Michael, Ladies and Gentlemen,

my presence is in the capacity as Vice President of Comité Maritime International and in representation of President Stuart Hetherington. He is ideally here together with President ad Honorem Francesco Berlingieri, and both of them asked me to convey their very best regards to all of you.

In such capacity and in the name of the Executive Council of Comité Maritime International I have the great privilege to tribute honour to Emeritus Professor Anthony M. Antapassis, in acknowledgment of his distinguished international role and remarkable activity whilst he was President of the Hellenic Maritime Law Association, succeeding in 1990 to Professor Panayotis Sotiropoulos and representing the Hellenic Maritime Law Association in Comité Maritime International for over 22 years.

His participation to the CMI started well before, I think in 1981, when he attended the CMI Conference in Montreal together with President Sotiropoulos, Mr. Markianos, Mr. Perrakis and Mr. Scorinis. At that time he already was Secretary of the Hellenic Maritime Law Association, founded in 1908, and one of the oldest Maritime Law Associations.

However I am here, less formally and more personally, also to express the friendship of my entire family, who had the pleasure of meeting the Antapassis family in the occasion of the celebrations organized by Professor Anthony Antapassis, when the 30 October 2006, upon his motion, my father was conferred with the honoris causa doctorate in jurisprudence by the University of Athens.
I think there is a natural link between the Hellenic MLA and the Italian MLA and I well remember how my grandfather Giorgio was proud to be a close friend to Professor Kyriakos Spiliopoulos, with their friendship becoming so close during the 1962 CMI Athens Conference.

The CMI enjoyed again the friendship, the warm hospitality and the perfect organization of your beautiful country and of the Hellenic Maritime Law Association some 46 years later, in the occasion of the 2008 CMI Conference in Athens. This thanks to Professor Anthony Antapassis and to the respect he gained in all international maritime circles, and thanks to the valuable scientific contributions of the Hellenic MLA in the CMI.

Uniformity of maritime law is the primary object in the Constitution of CMI as well as in the Statutes and By-Laws of all Maritime Law Associations members of CMI.

Uniformity is achieved through unification of the various legal systems by way of International Conventions or other alternative instruments, such as Guidelines or Model Laws, which, although not binding, are of great assistance to reach at least harmonization.

In his *lectio magistralis* at the University of Athens the 30 October 2006, Professor Berlingieri outlined that International Conventions are the most efficient system to realize uniformity.

But actual uniformity may be affected by the mechanism of implementation which may vary from promulgation, publication or enactment of a Convention, to translation of certain substantial provisions into terms of national law.

To achieve uniformity pursuant to the implementation, the CMI considered essential to find out what was happening to International Conventions after their adoption and entry into force. An important work was made to that effect by President Gregory Timagenis, who chaired an International Sub-Committee of the CMI and investigated the position regarding a number of Conventions such as the 1989 Salvage Convention, and the various Limitation Conventions i.e. CLC 1992, LLMC and HNS and considered the possible adoption of Guidelines in respect of the procedural aspects of limitation.
A joint study was then presented by Professor Anthony Antapassis and Professor Francesco Berlingieri at the 2008 CMI Conference in Athens, together with a Questionnaire on the procedures of implementation and interpretation of the International Conventions. Whilst Professor Berlingieri investigated the provisions of the Draft Convention on Contracts for the Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea that refer to domestic rules, Professor Antapassis devoted his attention to the 1993 Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages.

However the studies and the scientific activity of Professor Antapassis as regards implementation extended to other international conventions. We have an example of that with his admirable work “La convention de 1952 sur la saisie conservatoire et sa mise en œuvre en Grèce”. This study was published in 2010 in the Essays in honour of Francesco Berlingieri and constitutes a complete 30 pages analysis of the 1952 Arrest Convention with explanations how it was implemented in Greece.

The work undertaken by Professor Antapassis, together with President Timagenis and Professor Berlingieri, is remarkable and worth of being finally completed with Guidelines on the implementation of Conventions.

That would certainly be a tribute in acknowledgment to the role Professor Antapassis had in studying and considering this topic, which is essential to make uniformity really effective and complete.